

REMARKS

Advisory Action Allows Claims 14-16

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. In the Advisory Action mailed September 26, 2003, the Office concludes that the status of these claims is as follows:

Claims 14-16 are allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 17 and dependent claims 2-9 remain rejected.

Claims 10-13 are withdrawn.

No claims are objected to.

(See the Advisory Action summary.)

The Proposed Claim Amendments Render this Application Allowable

In order to speed prosecution of the application, Applicants first cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-9 and amend claim 17 to depend from allowed claim 14. Claim 17 is also amended to remove the phrase "wherein the stabilized protein preparation contains no antithrombin III," because that phrase is also recited in claim 14. Amended claim 17 is supported by the application as a whole, for instance, by the example at page 6 of the specification.

Second, Applicants add claims 18-20, which are similar to canceled claims 2, 7, and 9, but depend from allowed claim 14. Claims 18-20 are supported by the application as a whole, including the originally filed claims 2, 7, and 9, as well as the specification at page 3, line 19, to page 5, line 6, among other locations.

Finally, Applicants cancel, without prejudice or disclaimer, the withdrawn claims 10-13, which depend from claim 1. Applicants introduce new claims 21-24 that are similar to claims 10-13 but depend from allowed claim 14. Claims 21-24 are supported

by the application as a whole, including original claims 10-13 and the specification at page 3, line 19, to page 5, line 16, among other locations.

The amendments and new claims are supported by the application as a whole, introduce no new matter, and do not require a further search of the art. Therefore, they should allow for immediate attention.

Request for Joinder of Process Claims 21-24 to Allowed Product Claims 14-16

Applicants respectfully request the joinder of claims 21-24 to the instant application in accordance with the policy at M.P.E.P. § 821.04. That section states that "if [an] applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowable product claim *will be rejoined*." (Emphasis added.) Claims 21-24 are process claims that depend from allowable product claim 14, and therefore, are just the sort of claims that this policy applies to. Applicants have also requested the rejoinder of those process steps throughout the prosecution of this application. (See, e.g., Applicants' response to the Restriction/Election requirement filed June 27, 2002, at page 2, second full paragraph.)

The Instant Application is Allowable upon Entry of the Instant Amendments

Upon entry of the present amendments and joinder of claims 21-24, the instant application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and the allowance of the instant application.

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Applicants also submit that the entry of the amendments would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Office dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any required fees not found herewith to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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